

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2001**

The Tippecanoe County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2001 at 2:00 P.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Jeffrey Kessler, Vice President David S. Byers, Connie Basham, Margaret K. Bell, Ronald L. Fruitt, Jeffrey A. Kemper, and Kathy Vernon; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney Thomas H. Busch, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

President Kessler called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then offered a prayer.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Upon Councilmember Kemper's motion and Councilmember Kessler's second, Councilmember David Byers was elected President by a vote of 6 – 0. Councilmember Byers abstained.
- Upon Councilmember Vernon's motion and Councilmember Bell's second, Councilmember Connie Basham was elected Vice President by a vote of 6 – 0. Councilmember Basham abstained.

President Byers thanked the Council for the great privilege to serve as President. He distributed the 2001 County Council Member Assignments and 2001 County Council Appointments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the December 12, 2000 minutes as distributed, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Auditor Robert Plantenga

Auditor Plantenga reported the 2000 uncommitted County General Funds through December 31, 2000 are \$79,106.63. 2001 uncommitted County General Funds through January 1, 2001 are \$1,653,176.51.

INTEREST STATEMENT: Treasurer Oneta Tolle

Treasurer Tolle reported interest earned for November 2000 was \$696,230.46.

SUPERIOR COURT III

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$1,165,224.00

633,975.00	Institutional Care (Boys' School) (prior years)
178,643.00	Institutional Care (Boys' School) (current year)
303,937.00	Institutional Care (Girls' School) (prior years)
48,669.00	Institutional Care (Girls' School) (current year)

- Since Councilmember Kemper has not had the opportunity to meet with Judge Rush, he moved to table these requests until the Council has the chance to explore other alternatives, seconded by Councilmember Kessler; motion carried.

BUILDING COMMISSION: Building Commissioner Ron Highland

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$4,725.00

4,204.00	Senior Building Inspector
321.00	Social Security
200.00	Retirement

Mr. Highland said this position was upgraded after a reevaluation by Wager, Irwin, and Scheele.

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$4,725.00, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

<u>SALARY ORDINANCE</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Full Time	Sr. Building Inspector	1,562.29/ 1,644.58	39,224.00

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve the salary ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Bell; motion carried.

JUVENILE ALTERNATIVES: BEAMES Grant: Director Cathy Smith

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$69,090.00

25,839.00	Coordinator
22,496.00	Asst. Coordinator
3,698.00	Social Security
2,538.00	Retirement
1,691.00	Workman's Comp
10,828.00	Health Insurance
1,000.00	Travel & Training

Ms Smith explained that this is a reimbursable grant for a joint venture by the three (3) school corporations, the Division of Family and Children, and Juvenile Alternatives. The program is for elementary students K-5 with behavioral problems that interfere with education. She anticipates a maximum of eight (8) students will participate the first year. The parents will pay a user fee of \$15.00 per day or \$10.00 for a partial day.

It was noted that the Commissioners intend to create the positions at tonight's meeting. Auditor Plantenga corrected the Retirement amount to \$2,296.00.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$68,848.00 subject to the creation of the positions by the Commissioners at tonight's meeting, seconded by Councilmember Bell; motion carried.

<u>SALARY ORDINANCE</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Full Time	Coordinator	1,076.62	25,839.00
	Asst. Coordinator	937.33	22,496.00

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the salary ordinance subject to creation of the positions by the Commissioners at tonight's meeting, seconded by Councilmember Bell; motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS: EDIT Fund 15: Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Weston

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$600,000.00

600,000.00	Debt Service Interest
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Mrs. Weston explained that this is the finalization of the bond issuance for the parking garage. She adjusted the amount to \$515,000.00.

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve \$515,000.00 from EDIT Fund 15 for debt service for the parking garage, seconded by Councilmember

INFORMATION: Imaging of Court Records

Phil Brailler, Sales Representative for Information & Records Associates, Inc., discussed the replacement of the microfilm system currently used by the Clerk to image court records. He said the cost of the first year for the Docu Ware Imaging System will be approximately the same as the annual maintenance cost on the microfilm system. The information, stored on CDs, can be accessed in 30 seconds compared to 10 minutes on microfilm and will be indexed for ready retrieval. The five year lease will cost \$28,280.00 after which the County will own the system.

Commissioner Shedd said the County needs to move in this direction because it will save employees' hours due to the speed of retrieval. The maintenance cost for the microfilm system will be used to pay the first year's lease.

MAGISTRATE

<u>SALARY ORDINANCE</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Full Time	Court Reporter	1,399.38	33,585.00

Auditor Plantenga reported that the Magistrate's Court Reporter transferred to Superior Court 6. Because the person the Magistrate hired has more experience than the previous employee, it will be necessary for him to request additional funding at the February meeting.

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the salary ordinance for the Court Reporter, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

CARY HOME

<u>SALARY ORDINANCE</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Full Time	House Supervisor (2)	1,001.96/ 1,152.79	53,508.00

It was noted that the Commissioners intend to create these two positions at tonight's meeting. No additional funding is needed.

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve the salary ordinance subjection to creation of the two positions by the Commissioners at tonight's meeting, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

PARKS DISCUSSION: Superintendent Ron Dye

Due to insufficient staff and equipment, Mr. Dye said the Parks Department needs to downsize or ask for additional staff and equipment. He proposed offering the community centers located in Jackson Township, Buck Creek, Fair View, and Pleasant Grove Grange and five (5) acres at West Point to the Township Trustees. In addition to rents collected, he said the Township has the ability to levy a small recreation tax to support the centers. If these properties are released, no additional manpower or equipment will be needed by the Parks Department for at least the next five (5) years.

President Byers suggested asking volunteers to mow these areas. Mr. Dye responded that, in addition to mowing, water samples have to be taken, the buildings have to be maintained, and trash has to be picked up. He said weekly mowing may not be appealing to a volunteer ten years from now. He pointed out that liability is incurred when using volunteers.

Councilmember Basham said she favors speaking with the Township Trustees to determine if they want to take over the centers. Mr. Dye said the Parks Department can declare the centers as excess property and either turn the property over to another government entity or obtain two appraisals and take bids.

Councilmember Vernon asked the cost if the Parks Department keeps the properties. Mr. Dye said they need \$94,000.00 for the current equipment replacement program plus an additional \$60,000.00 for equipment to keep all the soccer fields and centers mowed. They would need to increase the equipment inventory from \$450,000.00 to \$510,000.00.

President Byers asked if the Parks Department could utilize Road Crew workers to help with maintenance. Mr. Dye said Road Crew has been used for clean-up and painting preparation on week days but their numbers are limited. Although more Road Crew are available on week-ends, use at that time has not been successful because of the lack of supervision. He is unwilling to let Road Crew workers operate power mowers.

Councilmember Kemper would like the Park Foundation to approve Foundation funds to catch up the equipment replacement program. Mr. Dye said this is possible but he does not have the authority to commit Foundation funds.

If the centers are retained, Mr. Dye said he will need an additional Maintenance Technician at a cost of approximately \$30,000.00 including benefits. This person will be used to mow in the summer and for building and equipment repair in the winter.

Councilmember Kessler thinks the Parks Department needs to restructure and report to the Council after the Township Boards have been approached regarding the centers. Councilmember Kessler said he would vote to approve more part-time but hesitates to vote for additional personnel on the premise that the County needs to take care of the personnel it currently has. He suggested approaching the Commissioners for recommendations on capital needs to give the Council some

direction. Councilmember Kessler observed that once these properties are deeded to other entities or sold, the County has very little chance of getting them back. He thinks it is contradictory for the Park Board to sell five pieces of land after the Council recently appropriated \$2.1 million to give them the authority to buy more land.

Mr. Dye asked if additional funding will be available to pay for new equipment and additional staff if the centers are not turned over to the Townships. President Byers responded that an additional employee was put in the immediate needs column during the Non-Capital Goals meeting held on January 11th. Councilmember Kessler encouraged Mr. Dye to present his additional requests.

Councilmember Basham asked Mr. Dye to approach the Townships to determine if they are interested in taking over the centers at some point in time.

COUNTY LIBRARY TAX RATE DISCUSSION: Van Phillips

Mr. Phillips said the Library Board is seeking the County Council's approval of the establishment of a Capital Projects Fund and the setting of a tax rate to fund it. He introduced Joanne Troutner who presented the capital projects they hope to fund.

Ms Troutner said the Library Board approved the Capital Projects Fund Plan on January 9, 2001 and they will request County Council approval of the Plan at their February 13, 2001 meeting. She outlined how a Capital Projects Fund will be used:

Uses for Projects Fund:

- Equipment: purchase and repair
- Building: construct, repair & replace, or remodel
- Site acquisition and development
- Technology: purchase, upgrade, and maintain
- Emergencies

Near Future Projects:

- New Bookmobile
- Technology systems: to maintain & upgrade plus operational personnel
- Additional express check-out stations
- Purchase & maintain furniture & equipment
- Acquire property (Gray Bldg.)
- Building & Grounds maintenance & repair

No opposition was expressed during presentations to the following groups in the community.

- Farm Bureau
- Labor unions
- Developers
- School corporations
- Community & retirement groups
- Minority community

Ms Troutner noted that an annual review and rate setting for the Capital Projects Fund by the County Council is required. The Library Board will present a three (3) Year Plan by the February County Council meeting.

Ms Troutner said this Fund will allow the expansion of outreach services, cooperation with West Lafayette Public Library, a northwest community branch, development east of I-65, and further development of the Ivy Tech venture.

Mr. Phillips provided answers for questions he anticipated the Council might have:

- The Library Board is proceeding with this in January to enable long range planning.
- This is not the Library's only effort. Over 10,000 man-hours are volunteered annually.
- The Board is working on a Capital Fund drive to purchase furniture for the Ivy Tech joint venture.
- Development of the Tippecanoe Library Foundation is proceeding.

Mr. Phillips said the Library Board realizes there are a lot of needs in the County, but the Library is providing services to the community.

Councilmember Kessler said we need to give the community the opportunity to gain knowledge and our Library does this by assisting all ages and cultures. He favors approving a rate for a Capital Fund to help give them the tools they need.

President Byers asked if the Library's Plan is conservative or it is a "wish" list. Mr. Phillips and Board President Dan Taylor believe that it is conservative. Mr. Taylor said it is flexible but includes absolute needs as well as long-range strategic planning. He thinks it is essential for growth of the Library.

Councilmember Fruitt commented that he wants to be convinced that the State has completed its obligation for the Ivy Tech joint venture with Vincennes University before we embark on a tax increase.

Jerry Withered, Facilities Committee, said the joint building venture between the County Library and Ivy Tech is a "win-win" situation because it only cost each participant one half (1/2) of the cost of building a library alone. He pointed out that this library can be used by all citizens of the County as well as the faculty and students at Ivy Tech.

Councilmember Kemper reminded the Council that Mr. Taylor is the County Council's representative on the Library Board. He said he has discussed this issue with Mr. Taylor and recommended that other Councilmembers also speak with Mr. Taylor.

Councilmember Vernon wondered about the timing of holding a special evening County Council meeting sometime between the Council's February 13th meeting and the March 13th meeting to hear public comments on the rate request. Joel Robinson, Library Director, said the Council has until August 1st to set a rate.

SURVEYOR: Steve Murray

DRAINAGE

Mr. Murray discussed the importance of drainage to the County's development. He distributed copies of the Ph 2 Storm Water Federal Regulations which will be the Surveyor's largest new responsibility. Mr. Murray has begun a needs assessment by distributing questionnaires to the various entities in the County for recommendations and expects results in the next two to three months. Referring to Permit Requirements in the regulations, he said #3, Elicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (pollution), will require additional staff. He said additional ordinances will also be necessary. Funding of \$3 million was budgeted in EDIT and he expects to receive grants from IDEM. The Storm Water Plan is due by March 2003.

President Byers suggested meeting with Councilmembers individually to explain in greater detail.

DRAINAGE FEES

Mr. Murray said the County currently provides ten (10) free review hours to developers for drainage that equates to \$650.00 per development. He thinks it will be wise to move toward an application fee and fewer free review hours to bring more money into the General Fund. He plans to meet with developers to discuss lowering the number of free hours.

OTHER BUSINESS

MEDIATION

President Byers announced that he and Councilmember Kessler will represent the Council at the Mediation Session in response to Judge Melichar's Order that will be held in the County Office Building at 9:00 A.M., Tuesday, January 23, 2001.

PROJECT 2020

Commissioner Benson announced a meeting of Project 2020 will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 25, 2001 at Lafayette City Hall. She said it is time for contributions from government.

WORKING SESSION/PUBLIC HEARING

The February Working Session will be held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, February 8, 2001. A public hearing on the County Library's request for a Capital Projects Fund and tax rate will follow immediately.

The next regularly scheduled County Council meeting will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 13, 2001 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

ADJOURNMENT

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Kessler; motion carried.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

David S. Byers, President

Ronald L. Fruitt

Connie Basham, Vice President

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Margaret K. Bell

Jeffrey Kessler

Attest: _____
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

Kathy Vernon